

CADET RECEIVES SOLO WINGS AS BIRTHDAY PRESENT

(Perry, NY)-- The Condor Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol is pleased to announce that a Cadet Officer and Student Pilot recently received his Solo Pilot Wings.

On May 27, 2003, Cadet Captain Jonathan Fitch received his Solo Pilot Wings. With his fellow cadets looking on, Cadet Captain Fitch took the controls of the Cessna 172, left the runway at Perry Warsaw Airport, and returned a Solo Pilot after a picture perfect landing.



May 27 is also Jonathan Fitch's birthday, and what a present he gave himself. He received the customary "clipping of the tail" and his CAP Solo Flight Wings by CAP Instructor Pilot Diane Wojtowicz, also a CAP Lieutenant Colonel. He received flight instruction from CAP Instructor Pilot Major Dana Boothe when Fitch began taking lessons last year at the age of 16.

"The weather changed enough that we were able to fly and he was able to solo. As luck would have it, today was his 17th birthday as well," said Diane Wojtowicz.

C/Captain Fitch is the first cadet that the Condor Composite Squadron has had solo in a Civil Air Patrol aircraft outside of a flight encampment. He has been in Civil Air Patrol for over two years, has received his Amelia Earhart Award and is the Cadet Commander of the squadron. He also serves as the recorder for the Cadet Advisory Council for Finger Lakes Group and will be attending Cadet Officer School this summer. Cadet Fitch will be a senior at Castile Christian Academy in Castile, New York this fall and hopes to attend the United States Air Force Academy in the summer of 2004.